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THE MENACE

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MENACE CASE SET FOR TRIAL IN JANUARY; ROMANISTS RAISE A HUGE "WAR FUND"

By The Free Press Defense League Editor.

THE case against THE MENACE, its editors and publishers has been continued until the January term of the federal court at Joplin. The continuance was granted upon application from the defense and is a most fortunate development. The campaign for the enlistment of "minute men" in the struggle to preserve the free press and the funds to finance this defensive warfare in behalf of American institutions will go on. The fight is but begun.

New and greater plans for The Free Press Defense League are being discussed. The temporary organization will complete its work at midnight of Flag Day, June 14th.

No contribution will be received by the temporary organization that is not in the mails at that hour. Until that time it is necessary for every man and woman upon the Firing Line to do his utmost, as the first stage of the campaign ends then and it is desired to effect a permanent organization of The Free Press Defense League at once upon the strongest possible basis.

Some of the details of the plan that will be suggested to the membership for its approval have not yet been decided upon, but the temporary officers of The League are confident that their suggestions will, when finally formulated and announced shortly after Flag Day, be such as will adequately meet the situation and meet the unqualified approval of the membership of The League.

Meanwhile, until the new plans are thoroughly formulated and approved by the membership, the effort to muster modern minute men against the attack by Romanism upon American institutions must go forward more vigorously than ever! The fight is only begun. The need is great, the crisis is grim! And every member rallied, every dollar contributed by midnight of Flag Day means a blow in behalf of American institutions!

It is the part of every patriot, the privilege and the duty of every man and woman upon the Firing Line, to realize the responsibility of his captaincy in this fight and make the final, crowning effort of the first stage of this campaign during the time that intervenes between today and midnight of June 14.

League Will Try Again

It will be remembered that the first application for continuance filed by attorneys for The Free Press Defense League was one of the most remarkable documents of its kind ever recorded in an American court. It asked the continuance upon the ground that it was desired to attempt to take the deposition of Pope Benedict XV and those directly associated with him in the supreme government of the Romanist church.

That motion, the court, in a ruling made May 18, denied. The court at that time declared that the testimony of the pope would not be pertinent to the issues involved in this case. The Romanist church, the court held, is not on trial.

Submitting to the ruling of the court in this particular matter but reserving the right to differ with the court as to the soundness of its OPINION as to the admissibility of the testimony of the pope, the attorneys for The Free Press Defense League INSIST THAT DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE TRIAL OF THE CASE WILL PROVE BEYOND A SHADOW

(Send all contributions intended for The Free Press Defense League to that organization at Ft. Scott, Kas., J. I. Sheppard, Secretary, and not to THE MENACE.)

The Free Press Defense League Fort Scott, Kansas

WILBUR F. PHELPS, President. J. I. SHEPPARD, Secretary
I hereby make application for membership in The Free Press Defense League and I enclose \$..... as my contribution for the purposes of the League.

I understand that in consideration of this contribution, I am to receive a receipt and membership card. Also that after the first year I am to have a voice in the management of the organization and in the election of officers.

Name
Street or Rural Route
Postoffice
State

A NEW CRISIS AND A CALL

AMERICAN PATRIOTISM faces a new crisis. A situation fraught with fresh dangers has arisen. Rome, terrified at the progress of the anti-papal movement in the United States, and fearing that The Menace may escape conviction, is now in the course of her most desperate effort to assert tyrannical control over American affairs.

The hierarchy is engaged in raising the most stupendous "war fund" ever raised by any institution (other than a nation) in the history of the world. That fund is to be used in any way that the hierarchy believes effective for the wiping out of those fearless newspapers and magazines which have dared to criticize the acts of Rome and its minions.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HAVE BEEN ASSESSED \$5 EACH. That assessment alone means \$1,500,000 to be used to destroy the freedom of the press.

The Catholic Foresters, the Clan na Gael, the Hibernians, the Militia of Christ and Knights of St. John are still to be heard from. How much each of their members is being assessed we have not as yet discovered. But we do know that the fund of millions, which you were told weeks ago would be gathered, is now being collected.

There are some facts too grimly eloquent, too pregnant with obvious danger to require comment. This is one of them.

Rome girds its loins for the supreme struggle. One single division of the "minute men of the pope," the Knights of Columbus, gives \$1,500,000—a sum equal to one dollar for each and every reader of The Menace.

The battle to fasten the power of the pope upon American institutions is worth \$5 to each Knight of Columbus. Opposed to the execution of this, Rome's most colossal conspiracy, is The Free Press Defense League, determined that American liberty shall hereafter be more than an empty sound.

HOW MUCH IS THAT WORTH TO YOU?

It is just nine days until Flag Day!

OF A DOUBT THAT THE TESTIMONY OF POPE BENEDICT AND HIS IMMEDIATE ADVISERS WILL NOT ONLY BE PERTINENT BUT VITAL TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED. THEY ALSO INSIST THAT THE ROMANIST CHURCH IS UPON TRIAL, THE ROMANIST HIERARCHY IS PERSECUTING THE MENACE, ITS EDITORS AND ITS PUBLISHERS, AND THAT BECAUSE OF THIS FACT THE ROMANIST HIERARCHY GOES TO TRIAL WITH THE MEN WHO MAKE THE MENACE.

On Monday, May 24, a second application for a continuance was made, this time setting forth other grounds. The court at once granted the continuance and the trial will be held at Joplin in January. This continuance will give counsel for The Free Press Defense League time to renew their efforts to procure the depositions of Pope Benedict and his advisers.

IF IT BE HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO PROCURE THE DEPOSITIONS OF THE POPE AND HIS IMMEDIATE ADVISERS, THE LEAGUE DOES NOT PROPOSE TO GO TO TRIAL WITHOUT THEM. ACCORDINGLY, AT THE PROPER TIME, AN APPLICATION WILL BE MADE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER IN ROME BEFORE WHOM SUCH DEPOSITIONS MAY BE TAKEN.

Counsel for The League are quite well aware that it may be impossible to take such depositions. There is some prospect of the pope's making good his boast that he is superior to all human law—that while he demands and exacts from his subjects obedience as to a temporal monarch, regardless of the nationality of those subjects, he himself is superior to all human law whatsoever.

If the pope can make good that boast, The Free Press Defense League wants to know it. If he can defy the government of Italy and of the United States, if he can with impunity disregard all civil processes, the world is entitled to know

that. AND INASMUCH AS COUNSEL FOR THE FREE PRESS DEFENSE LEAGUE CONCEIVE THE POSITION OF THE POPE IN THESE MATTERS AND IN OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO CIVIL ALLEGIANCE AND COMMON MORALS TO BE VITAL TO THE MENACE CASE, THE LEAGUE PROPOSES IF POSSIBLE TO RENDER TO THE WORLD THE INCIDENTAL SERVICE OF PUTTING THE POPE UPON RECORD IN REGARD TO HIS RELATIONS TO THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH.

If it can do no more The Free Press Defense League proposes, by exhausting every effort in its power to procure his deposition, to challenge the tyrant of the Tiber to unlock the secrets of the ages and tell the world whether the indictments of oppression, robbery, treason, murder and crimes unspeakable, brought against the Romanist hierarchy during all the centuries of its existence, are true, or whether the Romanist church, so-called, is the most brutally malignant organization in the history of the world.

Despite all insistence to the contrary, from any quarter whatsoever, The Free Press Defense League insists upon these facts:

The indictment of The Menace Publishing Company, Marvin Brown, the Rev. Theodore C. Walker, W. F. Phelps and B. M. Phelps was inspired by their constant preaching of patriotism rather than by the publication of alleged obscenities.

That the real purpose of the Romanist hierarchy, which caused this prosecution to be brought, is not to improve the morals of the country but to demonstrate once and for all that that publication which criticizes Rome dies; that the editor who beards the hierarchy goes to the penitentiary.

That because patriotism is hateful to the hierarchy which gives allegiance to a foreign tyrant, the teaching of patriotism in the United States

is a crime punishable by fine and a prison sentence.

That in the persons of Marvin Brown, W. F. Phelps, the Rev. Theodore Walker and B. M. Phelps, the freedom of the press goes to trial.

That in the freedom of the press—a free and fearless press being the watchman upon the towers to warn the citizenry of approaching danger—is bound up all our liberties.

That in bringing the free press and American liberties to trial the Romanist hierarchy must itself go upon trial; that before it has finished with the federal tribunal at Joplin—the tribunal which it hopes by means of technicalities to use for the suppression of THE MENACE and its kind—the Romanist political hierarchy must answer to the indictments of the ages.

It was to warn against the danger of the hierarchy and its crimes that THE MENACE published the alleged obscene matter—and if there is under heaven and in an earthly court means of showing what those dangers are The Free Press Defense League proposes to use that means.

Reason for Continuance

Not only fortunate but absolutely necessary was the continuance of the case granted on the second motion. There are few Marvin Browns, few Theodore C. Walkers and the cause has need of them all. Worn by his long fight against the powers of Romanism, Marvin Brown on the second day of May fell ill. What appeared at first to be but a slight attack of throat trouble developed into a serious illness and for several weeks Mr. Brown was unable either to attend to his duties or to consult with the attorneys for The Free Press Defense League in the preparation of the legal side of the free press campaign and the defense of the editors of THE MENACE at Joplin.

Mr. Brown is now recovering—too late to permit of the exacting labor of preparation for

the trial of the case in June. While he has been ill, Marvin Brown's work has gone marching on, and his own master hand will within the week, it is hoped, be once more upon the throttle of THE MENACE.

The Reverend Theodore C. Walker, the eloquent and inspired writer whose fighting qualities have given much of its lofty spirit to THE MENACE was as little able as Marvin Brown to assist in the preparation of his own case. The aged wife of this venerable warrior for the cause of liberty is lying at death's door. It is quite possible that before these lines reach the eye of the reader, she who has been for a half century the inspiration and the solace of the militant editor of THE MENACE will have passed to that Christian reward which her consecrated life has so richly earned. And as these words are written, Theodore C. Walker sits at his ceaseless vigil at the bedside of the one dearest of earth to him. Thus he has watched for weeks, and while he must thus watch it is impossible for him to give thought either to himself or to the cause for which he has so faithfully and so effectively labored. And it was the facts here set forth which, presented to the court, caused the continuance to be granted.

What Defeat Would Mean

The continuance of THE MENACE case means a greater preparedness when The Free Press Defense League shall meet Rome in the legal arena; it means a greater need of funds. The battle grows bigger; the call for "minute men" waxed more insistent.

Let no man forget what this attempt of Rome to destroy THE MENACE means. It was only the other day that the Brooklyn Tablet, organ of the hierarchy, with inspired utterance declared that a conviction in THE MENACE case would mean that FORTY OTHER INDICTMENTS AGAINST AS MANY PUBLICATIONS (PROTESTANT, MASONIC AND PATRIOTIC) WOULD BE BROUGHT AT ONCE. Doubtless these publications, religious and non-religious alike, will be charged with publishing obscene matter. THEY HAVE ONE CRIME IN COMMON WITH THE MENACE—THEY HAVE DARED TO CRITICIZE ROME: THEY HAVE DARED TO PREACH PATRIOTISM. THE FORTY INDICTMENTS AWAITING THE CONVICTION OF THE MENACE HAS THIS TERRIBLE SIGNIFICANCE:

IF MARVIN BROWN, THEODORE C. WALKER, W. F. PHELPS AND BRUCE M. PHELPS GO TO PRISON FOR PREACHING PATRIOTISM THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WILL BE DEAD IN AMERICA!

THERE ARE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED OTHER PUBLICATIONS WHOSE REFUSAL TO KISS THE TOE OF ROME HAS MARKED THEM FOR EXTINCTION BY THE SAME PROCESS.

The real battle—the battle for the preservation of the free press, the free school and the free church—is only begun. Brown will be back at the head of the Firing Line soon. The hand of grief will not always stay the pen, nor forever silence the tongue of the Rev. Theodore Walker. The fight goes on! America has need of you now! Remember Flag Day—rally your friends, make Flag Day, 1915, one to be long remembered and forever anathematized where the tyrant of the Tiber sits hurling curses upon his critics and upon the patriots of all lands.

BULLETIN BOARD

Total number of members of The Free Press Defense League received up to May 28, 1915.....**11,557**
Total amount of money received by The Free Press Defense League up to May 28, 1915....**\$16,081.56**

AFFIDAVITS

State of Kansas,
Bourbon County.—ss.
W. T. Seagraves, being duly sworn, says: I am cashier of the Peoples' State Bank of Fort Scott, Kas. there has been deposited in this bank to date by The Free Press Defense League a total of \$16,081.56.
W. T. SEAGRAVES.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of May, 1915.

ELMER FREEMAN, Notary Public.
My commission expires on the 3rd day of May, 1918.
State of Kansas,
Bourbon County.—ss.
C. P. Frey, being duly sworn, says, since the organization of The Free Press Defense League began, I have had charge of the membership books and there have been enrolled to this date 11,557 members of said League.
C. P. FREY.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of May, 1915.

ELMER FREEMAN, Notary Public.
My commission expires on the 3rd day of May, 1918.